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The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville



'Music Man'
 production to debut
 tonight
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Peck construction leaves some afowl

Dead bird found in office as professors upset with state of construction

LEXI CORTES

Alestle Reporter

Several professors' offices, often their homes away from home, are being disrupted with unexpected inconveniences due to the construction in Peck Hall.

Professor of Middle Eastern history Steve Tamari uses his office frequently, which has made this summer a challenging one for him.

"I think I became a professor because I really liked my professors' offices when I was in college," Tamari said. "For some people it may just be a place to keep things, but I think for a lot of people it's like your sanctuary. [It is] sort of violated in this way."

Although Tamari said he is thankful the building is being refurbished and made more environmentally friendly, he said there are more important things for a university to worry about.

"A university is a place to study and to teach and to make that possible," Tamari said. "That's the most important thing that should take place at a university."

Professor of Spanish Olga Bezhanova said she is glad the construction is taking place too, but she looks forward to seeing it come to an end.

"It's an important project because Peck Hall was not in good condition," Bezhanova said. "I'm happy that it's being done, but we all want it to be over as soon as possible. The process is difficult. I hope it's all worth it when we receive a new and improved building."

Linda Markowitz, professor of sociology and director of women's studies, said she agrees the construction is necessary, but has made working this summer challenging.

"While I am ecstatic that the building will soon be more energy efficient, the lack of care shown to faculty, staff and students by the administration during this renovation is alarming," Markowitz said.

Professors were shocked to find dust, animals and general disarray in their offices.

"The workers have moved the

items themselves, leaving piles of papers, folders and books on top of desks and floors covered with metal, insulation and other detritus," Markowitz said.

Campus Architect Rick Klein, who is overseeing the renovations to Peck Hall, said the professors were sent an email in the spring and again early in the summer indicating that they would need to move their furniture away from the walls, as well as take care of any personal items they did not want damaged.

When some professors were did not to do this, the construction workers were ordered to move things for them. Klein said they worked around those offices for as long as they could, but when they had to finish a long series of windows that were interconnected, they could not skip over the offices any longer.

"When somebody's working and they want to get things out of the way they may just kind of shove stuff back," Klein said. "That could be an irritant to a professor

CONSTRUCTION/pg.2



Photo by Rebehka Blake/Alestle

Dust and debris cover an office in Peck Hall. Campus Architect Rick Klein said some professors were unable to rearrange their offices prior to the renovations to accommodate the workers.

Red Storm granted \$5,000 for athletic kickoff

JOHN LAYTON

Alestle Reporter

The Red Storm is planning an event to kick off the sports season, but will do so with a slashed budget.

After they requested nearly the maximum amount for a program request from Student Government, their budget dropped \$1,500 after SG deemed the event too expensive.

"This is over 10 percent of our budget until next July," Senator Andrew Pearson said.

Red Storm President Alex Burkhardt said he would like to see something new for the athletic scene.

"With this event, we kind of wanted to do a kick off for the year," Burkhardt said. "Since I've been here at school, and I'm a senior now, I haven't seen anything like that. There's stuff around Greek and everything else but around sports there hasn't been anything major to kick off the year."

Student Government eventually approved the program request for \$5,000 instead of the original \$6,500. This still ensures the band, Mike and Joe, can be signed to play the event, while Burkhardt will look to make cuts elsewhere.

"When you're spending five, what's seven? I know a lot of people say that," Financial Officer Allie Tipton said. "That's \$2,000.



Alestle file photo

The Red Storm originally wanted \$6,500 for a season kickoff event. Student Government approved \$5,000 that includes the Red Storm booking a band to play at the event.

Most programs that come in are only \$1,800. That's a whole other program that a student could go to. But at the same time, we do realize how much life and student participation this could bring to campus, so if it comes down to completely losing the event, we don't want to see that either."

The requested \$6,500 from SG at their meeting on July 8 was to help pay for the fan appreciation event, planned for September 15. Most of the money would pay for the band to

play at the event.

The proposed date of the event is during Rush Week. Several of the members of Student Government were concerned that holding the fan appreciation event during Rush Week would mean many students would be unable to attend.

Red Storm Events Manager Kurtis Kerstein believes having the band Mike and Joe at the event will bring in a lot of students.

"They get a pretty good

turnout," Kerstein said. "We're expecting hopefully around 1,500 to 1,800 people."

Student government made it clear they were not opposed to the event, just the price and timing.

"We love this idea," Tipton said. "I think it would be a great thing for this campus. It really needs a little bit of sparks and things to do to keep students around."

Tipton said \$7,000 is the

RED STORM/pg.2

Road closures likely until fall

ALESTLE STAFF REPORT

Even with weather delays, the road and parking lot construction on the main part of campus is expected to finish by the fall semester.

On the main portion of campus, three projects are a part of the seemingly annual summer construction. Director of Administrative Services Bob Vanzo said sidewalks and curbs are being redone around parking lots 1 through 6, closing off each section as completed.

Vanzo said the project was originally scheduled to finish August 1, but was pushed back due to a two-week delay in starting the project. He said the construction should still finish by the beginning of the fall semester, provided the weather, in forms of rain and heat, cooperates.

The parking spaces taken over by the expansion of Student Fitness Center in 2009 are being relocated to Lot 11 which is across from the Early Childhood Center. One hundred spaces will be added to the lot, doubling its size. Vanzo said the lot will also have LED lights, a first on the university, but said the lighting will eventually be changed for every lot on campus.

The western end of Lot F is also undergoing resurfacing. Both projects are expected to be complete by the fall semester.

News can be reached at
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RED STORM from pg.1

maximum amount that can be requested from student government.

"We have not gotten a request for that amount of money since 2008," Tipton said. "Since that time we have been scaling back everyone. Anywhere we can find money to save the students, to put towards another program or another travel, that's what we've been trying to do. This is a college, filled with college students on a budget. The school is also on a budget."

Tipton said Student Government tries to treat every request the same.

"Our main concern is we can't just say one organization is more important than another or one program is more important than another," Tipton said. "We want to give everyone a fair opportunity."

In open forum, Director of Administrative Services Bob Vanzo answered questions about the recent rise in parking permit prices.

Vanzo said the reason for the raise in prices while the number of permits being sold has dropped was the need to make up for lost revenue, as well as costs in general rising.

Together, Vanzo and Student Government decided it would be a good idea to poll students on whether they would rather see permit prices or the price of fines go up.

A travel request of \$675 for the Organization of Minority Business Students to attend the National Sales Network Conference and Career Fair was approved. A travel request for \$675 for the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity to attend the 2011 Strategic Leadership Conference was approved. A travel request for \$675 for the SIUE club football team to play at Ohio State University-Newark was approved. An additional program request for \$1,806 for the team to play Miami-Ohio was approved.

A program request for \$3,689 for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity to bring DJ Scrilla to campus was approved.

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CONSTRUCTION from pg.1

Photos by Rebekha Blake/Alestle

Professor of Spanish Olga Bezhanova said she found a dead bird in her office. She added that nothing of value, such as her computer was damaged and she has decided to not return to her office until the fall semester.

and we understand that. We try to avoid it as much as we can, but that's not always possible."

Now that things are moving along, Klein said the contractor has a better idea of the timeline for when construction will be wrapping up. They are set to finish all construction by mid-October, but the professors' offices could be finished earlier, depending on how things go.

Klein said he is not sure whether construction workers were as careful with the professors' belongings as they should have been.

Construction workers have had to move furniture and even clean up after a bird that found its way into Bezhanova's office last month.

"The office was trashed pretty much," Bezhanova said. "Apparently a bird fell through the roof in some way. There was like a huge hole in the ceiling and the bird flailed around for some time and just died. So I came into the office and everything is covered in bird poop and the papers are scattered around and the dead bird is just lying there."

Bezhanova said the computer was not damaged and the incident did not destroy anything of value.

"I didn't talk to administration because I don't have to teach in the summer," Bezhanova said. "I just made the decision not to go back to the office until the beginning of next semester."

Klein said birds as well as raccoons have been finding their way into the building.

"Sometimes the guys who are working on the job, they'll leave something open and then they get distracted by something else and maybe they'll make it back [to the site]," Klein said. "We've had some occasions where there were openings that animals could enter into."

Tamari said he remembers receiving the email telling him to move everything a certain distance away from the windows. He said it was the last time he was given any concrete directions as to what to do or when something would happen.

"What really put me over the edge was when I came back after a couple weeks away, there was rubble on the floor," Tamari said. "There was a thin layer of construction dust all over everything."

Klein said with any project involving demolition, dust is unavoidable, but they are doing the best they can to control it.

"The contractor has the responsibility to clean the dust," Klein said. "They tend to concentrate just on the area where they're working and not think about the general dust that may be floating in the office that landed on the desktop and the chairs and other areas. We're trying to tell the contractor to make sure they keep it clean."



Tamari said the best thing that could happen would be for administration to learn from the inconveniences during this construction project.

Markowitz said she expected there to be some inconvenience, but professors need to be regularly updated.

"We need information about the progression of the renovation project," Markowitz said.

Bezhanova said at the end of June, updates started coming more regularly through email. Klein said this is because Business Affairs Director James Schram is now receiving regular updates about the

progress of construction from the contractor which he has been forwarding to the professors.

"[The contractor] had a general schedule," Klein said. "On any construction project they don't know how long something might take, especially when you're doing demolition work initially. What he might allow a week to do, might take two days or it might take ten days. As they go along, they start to adjust their schedule to reflect the actual conditions."

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SIUE

POLICE BLOTTER

7-5-11

Police took a phone report of a missing hangtag from vehicle.

After review of a videotape, officer arrested Alexander Doty for criminal damage to state-supported property. Doty was brought to the police department where he was fingerprinted, photographed, and processed. He was given a notice to appear and was released.

While on a foot patrol in the Engineering Building, an officer was stopped by an SIUE employee who stated they had found a check

while cleaning and turned it over to the officer. A computer check on the reporting party showed he had an outstanding warrant out of Bond County, which was a civil attachment for Contempt of Court. Paul E. Whiteside was taken to the police department where he was fingerprinted, photographed and processed. Whiteside posted \$125 cash bond and was released.

7-6-11

Police issued Tequila Pruitt a state citation for speeding on South University Drive.

Police issued Robert Redmond for speeding on South University Drive.

Police responded to Cougar Village 426 regarding a resident receiving nuisance phone calls from the father of her son.

7-8-11

Police issued Elizabeth Benoodt a state citation for disobeying a traffic control device on East University Drive.

Police issued Erin McCoy a state citation for speeding on South University Drive.

Police took a report of \$6 being stolen from a wallet in Cougar Village.

7-10-11

Police spoke with a female who

said it sounded like several gunshots were fired in succession in the wooded area near Cougar Village apartment 525. The Edwardsville police department also received a call of possible shots fired in the same time frame and determined it to be fireworks in their city.

Police received an anonymous tip of occupants drinking and that had a small child in one of the cars. The mother of the child was referred to DCFS for investigation. Anthony Cobian, Dominick Canterbury, Alisha Stanek and James English III were all arrested for unlawful consumption by a minor. Due to English's level of intoxication, a parent was contacted to pick him up at the police department and given instructions to return when sober. Cobian, Canterbury and Stanek were all photographed,

fingerprinted and processed. They were each given a notice to appear and were released.

Police met with an Evergreen Hall resident to report that her mo-ped was stolen.

Police arrested Brice Bowers for driving on a suspended driver's license. Subject was transported to the police department where he was fingerprinted, photographed, processed and released with a notice to appear. State citations were issued for driving on a suspended license and speeding. Offense occurred on South University south of Supporting Services.

7-11-11

Police took a report from a driver being hit by an unknown vehicle while parked in Lot 6.

GOP derails railway funding for disaster relief

MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON
Congressional Republicans this week are side-tracking \$1.5 billion in high-speed rail funds already awarded to several states.

In an adroit maneuver, GOP lawmakers propose shifting the high-speed rail dollars to pay for Midwestern disaster relief. The move would help ease the federal deficit while it underscores Republican resistance toward the Obama administration's rail plans.

"The flooding in the Midwest has been devastating," said Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., adding that "We must be serious about controlling the deficit."

If House Republicans succeed, California would lose \$368 million. The Amtrak Northeast corridor would lose \$795 million, and a Midwestern high-speed rail corridor linking Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis would lose \$404 million.

The high-speed rail grants were announced by the Transportation Department in May, after Florida had rejected the money. The checks, though, have not yet been sent.

"They're taking after this because it's sponsored by the president," Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif., complained Monday, adding that "I think it's a real slap at California."

California has planned to use its \$368 million to help extend the



Photo by Nancy Stone/Chicago Tribune/MCT

(left to right) Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden speak in favor of the high speed rail at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC in 2009.

initial high-speed rail route from Bakersfield to a rural junction near Chowchilla. The California money would also help pay for additional rail cars and locomotives.

Frelinghuysen chairs the House energy and water appropriations panel and added the funding shift as part of a fiscal 2012 energy and water bill. The bill is often a popular one in California's Central Valley, as it provides money for Sacramento-area flood control,

safety upgrades at the Tule River's Success Dam and other projects.

The must-pass bill can also become a vehicle for controversial policy prescriptions, as well. The 2012 House bill, for instance, would block further spending on San Joaquin River restoration for the coming year.

This year's bill would add \$1 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to respond to floods, tornadoes and other natural

disasters in the Mississippi and Missouri river basins. The post-disaster work is considered an emergency, which usually means lawmakers don't need to offset the additional spending.

Since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, for instance, Congress has provided some \$5 billion on an emergency basis without demanding budget offsets.

"We have always treated those

as stand-alone items," Costa noted.

Nonetheless, the Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee wrote its energy and water bill to include taking away the high-speed rail funds. The committee on Friday rejected previous Democratic efforts to restore the funding on a party line 20-26 vote.

"It is important for the federal government to learn to live within its means," Rep. Hal Rogers, the Kentucky Republican who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, said during the committee debate.

The funding maneuver prompted Costa, Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Calif., and other members of the congressional High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus to rally together in a blizzard of emails and phone calls Monday, though it's unclear whether they can force a House vote before the overall bill is approved later this week. Politically, it may not be advantageous to force a vote if it's likely to lose in the GOP-run House.

The House and Senate must eventually reconcile their different versions of the energy and water bill. The high-speed funding transfer is among the divisive items likely to incite intensive negotiations, as is the San Joaquin River restoration funding ban.

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Summer Showbiz to end with 'Music Man'

Company strives to put modern spin on classic tale

LEXI CORTES

Alestle Reporter

Summer Showbiz aims to entertain with Meredith Willson's classic 1957 musical play, "Music Man."

For Director Joy Powell, "Music Man" is not just another musical put on by Summer Showbiz. It is particularly significant to the cast and crew this year for many reasons.

"Twenty years ago it was the very first musical I was ever in, so it's really cool to 20 years later be directing it," Powell said. "It has a lot of meaning so I'm really excited to have it be part of the summer season here and to be a part of it."

This was the first musical for Technical Director of Summer Showbiz Roger Speidel as well.

"Thirty years ago exactly this summer, I did my very first show at the age of 14 and it was 'Music Man,'" Speidel said. "I've been wanting to do Harold Hill for quite a long time and I'm finally at the age where I could do it."

Speidel designed and built the sets with the help of many other students and faculty working behind the scenes. He also plays the lead role of Harold Hill.

"I play a traveling salesman in 1912. I pretend to be a band leader and I come in this Iowa town and I get them all stirred up about having a boy's band, then I sell them instruments and high-priced band uniforms and instruction books," Speidel said. "I collect the money and then I leave basically."

Margaret French of St. Louis plays opposite Speidel as Marian

the librarian. They unexpectedly fall in love and Harold has to decide whether to leave and get away with yet another scam or to stay to be with Marian and suffer the wrath of an angry town.

"I think this story is interesting because Marian ends up falling in love with this person who's really, by the world's standards, not a good person," French said. "He's a thief, he's a crook, he's a con-artist. She figures that out and she still falls in love with him because she allows him to affect her and her town and she sees what he's done in spite of his foibles."

Together with Powell, Stage Manager and Properties Designer Kate Slovinski has been working hard to bring this musical to life. Slovinski said she feels lucky to be part of such an emotional project because she is watching someone's dream come true.

"It's like seeing somebody win the Triple Crown," Slovinski said. "[Roger's] got this huge responsibility of designing the set and it's beautiful and then he has to take on building it and then this huge role and then, ta-da! I mean, if you can do all three of those things, forget it. That's fantastic."

Slovinski said besides the anticipation surrounding Powell's and Roger's contributions, "Music Man" is a great play in and of itself.

"To have what's really a great story augmented by music as opposed to music carrying the entire story, makes this one of the coolest musicals," Slovinski said. "It has everything: fights and passion and small-town gossip and people of questionable

motives and it's funny."

Powell said this show is one that people like to come see, but because it is so well-known, they have had to work with the actors and actresses to put a unique spin on Music Man.

"Joy and the production team have just encouraged us to delve a little deeper into some of the characters and why they do the things they do," French said. "I think the goal is to make them still real people and believable and make the audience fall in love with them."

French said she has had a particularly difficult time making Marian an interesting character.

"These soprano-y roles can be kind of seen as pretty boring," French said. "My goal is to make her interesting and not just another Marian that sings high notes."

Another unique aspect of this performance is that Powell, Slovinski and the production team have been working with about 20 performers who are under the age of 15. Because Summer Showbiz performances open auditions up to the community, they are able to have a multigenerational cast.

Powell said auditions took place in February and they saw a big turnout because SIUE has a reputation for putting together good quality theater performances. Rehearsals began June 6 and the actors and production team have been working hard ever since.

"It's going to be a visual treat, between the costumes and the set [and] it's very catchy music," Speidel said. "You'll go out singing and humming it."



Photo By Derrick Hawkins/Alestle Photographer

Performers rehearse for their rendition of 'Music Man' which will run July 13-17 in the Dunham Hall Theater.

The performance will run from July 13-15 at 7:30pm and July 16-17 at 2:00pm in the Dunham Hall Theater. Tickets are \$15 for those 18 and older and all other admissions are \$12, including any students with valid student IDs.

"Just because it's set in 1912 doesn't mean that it's not funny or

that it's not a fun night," Powell said. "You'll definitely be able to relate to the characters. That's why it's a classic. That's why it stood the test of time."

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Photo By Derrick Hawkins/Alestle Photographer

From local band to local sensation

Dots Not Feathers displays indie folk sound

LEXI CORTES
Alestle Reporter

Dots Not Feathers knows they have made it big now that they see fans singing along to their songs and hear about a local musician covering their work.

Band members Stephen Baier, Ryan Myers, Katy Durrwachter, Ravi Raghuram and Jon Goldstein perform with a piano, synthesizer, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, ukulele, tambourine, melodica and drum set.

Myers said having other musicians cover their songs is a huge form of flattery. In addition to this validation, Dots Not Feathers was recently named Riverfront Times Music Awards Best New Artist of 2011.

Baier said he was shocked to discover they had won.

"I really didn't think we were going to win," Baier said. "Every other band in the category is so good. It was a real shock, but it's a real honor. It's really something that we appreciate."

With Baier writing the lyrics, chord progressions and melody, Dots Not Feathers has put out one full-length album called "A Thousand Novels" and one new EP called "Come Back to Bed."

The rest of the band adds to the songs Baier brings them, sometimes turning them into something completely different.



Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle Photo Editor

Local indie rock band Dots Not Feathers performed at the Old Rock House in St. Louis July 11. Riverfront Times recently named them Best New Artist of 2011.

"It morphs with everyone adding in what they do well," Baier said.

Dots Not Feathers formed in 2010, with the addition of Jon Goldstein in 2011. Baier, Durrwachter, Myers and Raghuram all attended UMSL together where they participated in choir until they graduated.

"We were all music majors at the same time," Durrwachter said.

Now, they are ready to start touring for town shows in their free time between working and writing music.

"What we want to do are

one-offs," Baier said. "Go to a town, play a show, come back home."

All of the members agreed that each venue they have played at has been great for different reasons. They will always love Picasso's Coffee Shop in St. Charles because it is where they got their start, but they also have fond memories at Off Broadway, The Old Rock House, The Firebird and others.

They unanimously agree that Sean Carey was one of the coolest musicians to open for, but they also enjoyed meeting Committed, Company of

Thieves and many others.

"We've been really lucky that every band we've opened for have been really awesome," Baier said. "We've been fans of them and we meet them and talk to them. We've been really blessed in that way."

Dots Not Feathers is part of a genre called indie folk. Baier said that is another way of saying they have folk instruments and play indie music.

Some of their influences include Nickel Creek, Fleet Foxes, Local Natives, Freelance

Whales, jazz groups and barbershop quartets.

"[We're influenced by] not only barbershop, but also a lot of choral music," Myers said. "We do a lot of contemporary harmonies and a lot of contemporary approaches."

Every member of Dots Not Feathers is also in at least one other band as well. Even though they all have side projects, they agree that Dots Not Feathers is unique, not just from their other bands, but from all other bands.

"Whenever I think of our band versus other bands, a lot of the stuff we do and the way it's structured, we do a lot of things where notes are sitting on top of each other," Myers said. "It's a lot more contemporary choral music. I don't know many other bands that really do harmonies like we do."

Raghuram said he likes that everyone in the band sings lead vocals on different songs. This group of friends loves performing and meeting fellow musicians, but they also enjoy meeting fans.

"[When] I get to hear from people that they liked it, it's still kind of a shock," Baier said. "It's not something I'm really used to because I remember writing some of these songs in my dorm room."

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Matisyahu at the Pageant



Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle Photo Editor

Matisyahu stopped by the Pageant in St. Louis as part of his tour on July 9.

in and around STL

7/15

Pointfest Announcement Party Pop's

6 p.m. \$3

Glennon Rocks The Pageant

8 p.m. \$12

7/16

Loop Underground The Pageant

8 p.m.

Underoath Pop's

6:30 p.m. \$17.50

7/17

Mira Loma and the Bad Vibes

Firebird 8 p.m. \$8

Armor for the Broken Fubar

6 p.m. \$10

7/18

Maylene and the Sons of Disaster

Firebird

7:30 p.m. \$8

7/19

Black Francis Old Rock House

8 p.m. \$20

Upcoming Events

The Alestle

Alton - East St. Louis - Edwardsville

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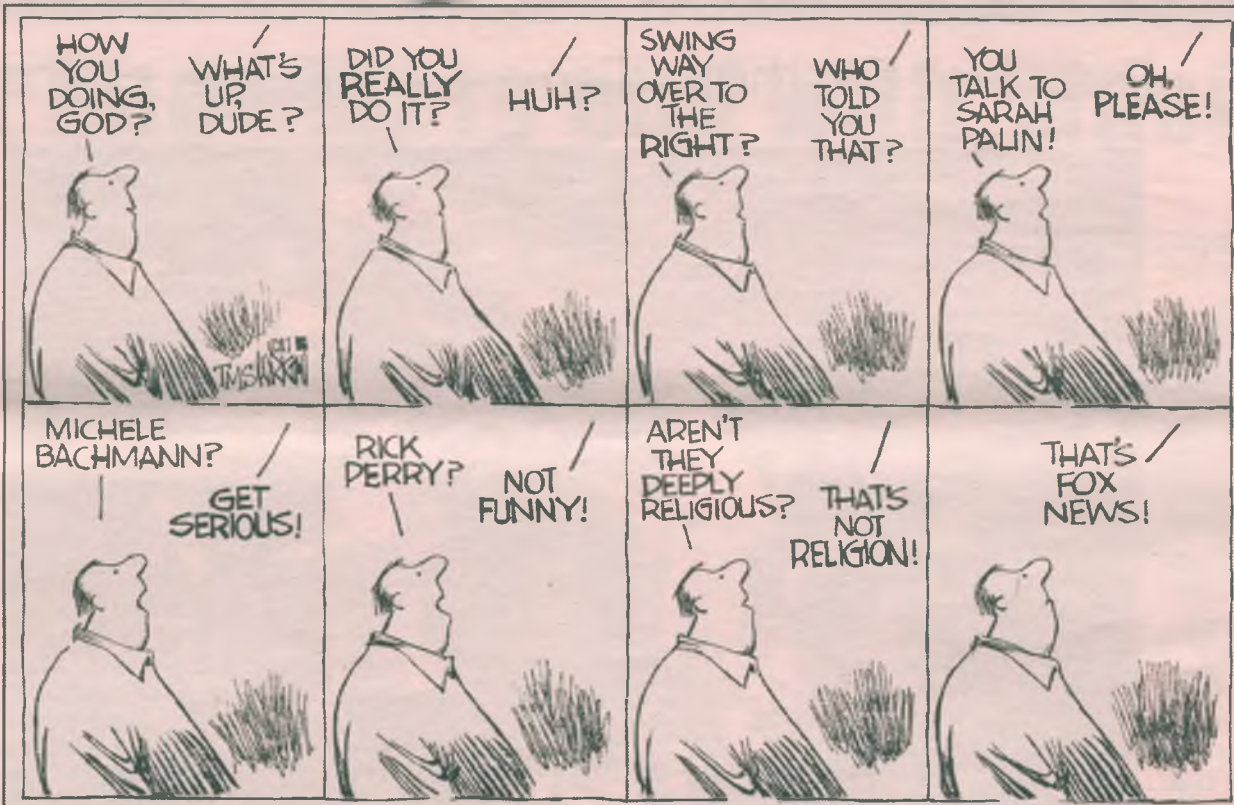
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Have a comment? Let us know!

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Get your name in the paper without the court date. Write a letter to the editor! Send to opinion@alestlelive.com

Eliminating writing from ISAT latest sham from state

As a student who was subjected to hours of Illinois Standards Achievement Test in high school, I find it unprofitable to eliminate the writing portion of the test just so the state saves money.

But as of June, Illinois has done just that. Because people, instead of a machine, must score the writing portion, it will cut

time.

We were placing our money on luck and sometimes it actually worked.

Four bubbles means a 25 percent chance of guessing the correct answer without even reading the question — pretty good odds if you ask me.

However, the writing section actually required extended, written responses that students had to think about.

I believe writing is a true test of a student's knowledge because it requires them to not only formulate a complete thought, but also to elaborate on that thought through the use of background information, details and personal opinions or experiences.

This section is impossible to guess on because it is an examination of the students' actual thoughts.

Even though some found it tedious, I always favored the writing section because I thought it was the only portion that would allow me to show the ISAT scorers I have an intelligence level above that of a trained monkey.

Also, the state would only be saving \$2.4 million as a result of eliminating the writing portion of the ISAT.

That may sound like a lot of money to the

average person, but spread out among the entire state of Illinois, \$2.4 million is a miniscule amount.

I simply do not think saving that small amount of money is worth eliminating the one portion of the test that truly tests a student's intelligence.

Asking someone to write down what they think about a topic is more beneficial than asking them to fill in bubbles after looking at math problems on a page. I find it essential to bring back the writing portion of the ISAT to some degree.

The state should reexamine their budget and find alternative methods to save money.

Saving money is clearly an important factor when it comes to state budgeting, but you simply can't put a price on education.

Unless the amount of money the state would be saving is significant, I cannot think of a single reason as to why the writing portion of the ISAT should be eliminated.

Writing is an essential life skill required by many jobs and should be reinforced in every school, not taken away.

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Ashley Seering
A&E Editor

costs to get rid of the section.

However, I believe the only portion of the ISAT that truly expresses the knowledge of a student is the writing section.

Let's face it; a trained monkey could fill in the bubble sheets that are associated with the only two sections left on the test, reading and arithmetic.

And based on my lack of skill in math, the monkey and I would probably get similar scores. But that's beside the point.

I know during high school many of my peers and I had a "breaking point" on these standardized tests in which we would stop trying to guess the right answer and start filling in random bubbles just to complete the test on

Caylee's Law could unintentionally convict innocent parents

As soon as the Casey Anthony trial wrapped up, people started proposing a new law, known as Caylee's Law. This law would make it a felony for parents not to report a child's death within 24 hours and also set a time frame in which parents have to notify authorities of a missing



John Layton
Reporter

child or else face criminal charges.

I understand it is frustrating when someone who seems to be guilty goes free. This does not mean we should start passing unnecessary laws in response.

While Caylee's Law has good intentions, it would only introduce complications for parents who would already have enough to deal with in the event of a child's death or disappearance. It would also create unnecessary legal cases.

This is just a knee-jerk reaction when emotions are still running high. I do not think situations like the Anthony case are so common that we need to pass a law to protect against it. I would like to think most parents

are responsible enough they would realize their child is missing and report it as soon as possible.

And what about parents with teenage children? I know I would sometimes stay out longer than I told my parents when I was a teenager. In a situation like that, would parents have to report their child missing? It would create unnecessary police and legal work.

At a time when many police departments are undermanned due to budget cuts, it would be unwise to take even more officers off the streets for a search and rescue that is completely unnecessary. Also, it would cost extra money to do these searches. Any money spent searching for a child that is not actually lost would be wasted.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 800,000 children under the age of 18 are reported missing each year. Of these, 115 were victims of a kidnapping where the child was held overnight, moved 50 miles or more away, killed or held for ransom. With Caylee's Law, the number of reported children would possibly rise while the number of serious incidents would remain level. This would lead

to wasted resources.

In the worst case scenario, if a child has died, would it be enough to take the child to a hospital or would the parents have to take time to call the police as well? If parents would have to call police, that just adds an extra hardship on the parents who would already be struggling with the death of their child.

This is my biggest problem with Caylee's Law. The majority of people affected by it would be innocent parents. They should not have to worry about criminal charges at a time when they would already be suffering more than anyone should.

I realize people are just looking out for the children. There is nothing wrong with that at all. But it is important to keep emotions separate from the lawmaking process.

Laws are meant to be put in place to protect innocent citizens. Caylee's Law would, more often than not, make criminals out of innocent people.

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Future and aspiring Cougars turn out for camp

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

Girls from all over the Metro East area came to Ralph Korte Stadium this past weekend to learn from college coaches and players.

Women's soccer

Women's soccer Head Coach Derek Burton and assistant coach Alaina Schlaefel ran the advanced training camp, which was open to girls ages 12-18. The camp focused mainly on technical skill development, along with daily topics that ranged from defense to finishing off scoring opportunities.

"It's working with their technical ability with the ball," Burton said, "and bringing that into whatever the main topic for that day was."

Twelve-year-old Caitlyn Scheibal of Edwardsville, who hopes to play soccer in college, said she believes the different drills have helped her improve her game already.

"We practiced moves and speed work and foot skills," Scheibal said.

Burton said he likes helping the girls gain some experience.

"It's nice to give that age of girls some different training and some exposure to the college level and the ideas that we have, and also just to offer something to the community," Burton said.

According to Burton, most girls coming to the camp are from the Metro East.

"Ninety percent of them are from 30-40 minutes from campus," Burton said. "We did have two or three from the Chicago area, three or four from Peoria, one from Springfield and one girl from Arizona."

Burton started the training camp three years ago.

"There was no camp previously to the time that I got here," Burton said. "It's steadily grown each year."

With such a wide age group, Burton said they had to be a little more specific with instructions depending on the ages of the girls they were working with.

"For the younger girls, we're trying to give them ideas that are going to help them as they get into high school,"



Michelle Beard/Alestle

Young athletes take shots on goal as SIUE Head Coach Derek Burton looks on during the program's advanced training camp Saturday at Ralph Korte Stadium.

Burton said. "The high school girls got a little bit more specific and a little bit more focused training on helping them elevate their game and kind of be exposed to things that are going to apply in the college game."

Exposing these older girls to a college skill level not only benefits the girls, but possibly Coach Burton as well. There were several recruits at the camp.

"We had three of our incoming freshmen," Burton said. "We also had three girls who are verbally committed to us in 2012 [and] six or seven girls in the 2013 class that are targets of ours were all here."

Burton said having the recruits there is one of the major benefits of holding the camp.

"It's good because they all get to play together and against one another," Burton said. "As coaches, it gives you a really good idea evaluating talent versus talent."

Burton said it also helps to see possible recruits at the camp.

"You can have kids that you don't know much about and haven't seen play much, but they've expressed interest in coming here," Burton said. "You can ask them to come to camp and it gives you three days to see them play against some of our own college players and other recruits."

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SIUE adds former SIUC player, SLU assistant to staff

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

Katie Wagner has played and coached at two of SIUE's biggest rival schools, but now she is a Cougar.

Softball

Softball Head Coach Sandy Montgomery announced last week Wagner, a former assistant coach at Saint Louis and a player at SIU Carbondale will join her staff as an assistant coach for the 2012 season.

When Wagner was a player, she drew interest from Montgomery before she signed at SIUC.

"She knows the tradition that we've had here and the expectations. There's a positive to hiring someone who knows our program," Montgomery said.

Wagner, a native of Mount Vernon, said she recalls the times when Montgomery coached against her Salukis.

"They gave us a run for our money every time at Carbondale," Wagner said. "They were just aggressive which is similar to my personality as well. Learning from her is going to be a great experience."

Montgomery noticed Wagner, and expressed interest in her joining the staff at SIUE.

"As I saw her coaching at SLU, I knew she was someone I wanted on my staff. She brings an energy and excitement to the team that is important to winning. Her knowledge of the game while playing Division I softball and coaching at the Division I level is really going to add to our staff," Montgomery said. "I think she is the kind of person who can match my energy and drive to make our program successful."

Wagner will serve as the Cougars' hitting coach, also taking on a number of administrative duties for the team, including travel, recruiting, equipment, apparel and community service. Hitting though, will be what Montgomery wants her to focus on.

"I want her to spend the majority of her time on making our hitters better. That's going to be her focus," Montgomery said.

Wagner said she wanted to come to SIUE because of the challenges that lie ahead.

"I'm honored to learn not only from the coaching staff but also the people around it," Wagner said. "They support their athletics, and it's a growing program. That was highly interesting for me."

Wagner comes to SIUE in its second season of Ohio Valley Conference play. This past season, the Cougars earned a bid into the OVC tournament, where they were eliminated in two games. SIUE ended the year with an 18-20 record.

On and off the field, Wagner was successful during her time in Carbondale. She was named a Saluki Scholar Athlete in each of her four years at SIUC and helped the Salukis to NCAA tournament appearances in 2006 and 2007.

She was a second team All-Conference pick as senior and a two-time Missouri Valley Conference All-Tournament selection and she ranks ninth in career home runs at SIUC.

She was second on her team in batting average as a sophomore at .317 and as a junior at .308. She tied for the team lead with 16 multi-hit games.

SIUC compiled a 139-66 record during Wagner's four seasons on the field as well as a 62-28 record in MVC play. She also helped the Southern Force ASA team in 2004 to a national championship. After completing her four seasons with the softball program, Wagner also competed in one season each for the Saluki women's basketball program and the track and field team.

She earned a bachelor's degree in 2010 in elementary education from SIUC.

"She is very passionate and loves to coach," said Montgomery. "She brings a work ethic and energy that will give our players the opportunity to achieve great things."

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"I think she is the kind of person who can match my energy and drive to make our program successful..."

- Sandy Montgomery
Softball Head Coach



Alestle Photo Archives

Head Coach Sandy Montgomery will be joined by new assistant Katie Wagner next season as the Cougars enter year two in the Ohio Valley Conference. Wagner played four years at SIU Carbondale.

Jackson announces women's recruiting class

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

While it continues running towards the finish line of NCAA Division I certification, the SIUE

Women's track and field

women's track and field team has added seven new athletes to its squad for the 2012 season.

Head Coach Kareem Jackson made the announcement last week, signing a class mostly made up of in-state recruits, but also includes one international athlete, who also happens to be a transfer from another Ohio Valley Conference school.

SIUE has received National Letters of Intent from Elizabeth Hampl (Troy), Jasmine Ranson (Aurora), Veronica Citireag (Bihor, Romania), Ellen Goins (Metamora), Kala Griffin (Quincy), Jessica Long (Cahokia) and Calie Thommes (Burlington).

Citireag is a native of Romania, but will join SIUE after beginning her collegiate career at

Jacksonville State. Citireag is pursuing a master's degree at SIUE, and is a former member of the Romanian national team. At Jacksonville State, Citireag proved to be a versatile runner, competing in everything from the 400-meter dash to the 1,500-meter run.

"Veronica is an accomplished and versatile runner who will bring a veteran spirit to the program," Jackson said.

The Cougars also have another Division I transfer in Griffin, who comes to SIUE by way of UIC.

In high school, Griffin was a three-sport athlete, winning letters in track and field, cross country and basketball. Griffin shined, winning the cross-country team's MVP award three times and the honor in track twice.

Hampl will throw for the Cougars after a successful high school career at Triad High School. She had both indoor and outdoor state championships in the shot put during her senior year.

The Troy native will be joining former high school

teammate Kristin Wykoff on the squad.

"Elizabeth is a strong and fierce competitor with tremendous athletic ability," Jackson said. "She is a good technical thrower and will be

away for SIUE in jumping events after signing an NLI. The West Aurora High School standout recorded personal bests of 37 feet, 10 inches in the triple jump and five feet, four inches in the high jump.

and competed on the cross country team. Coach Jackson said Goins would likely run the long sprint events and compete for a spot on the 1,600-meter relay team.

Long, a two-time Illinois state qualifier in the shot put and discus while attending Cahokia High School, will provide added strength to the Cougar throws. She placed eighth in the shot put at the 2011 state meet.

Thommes closed her Burlington High School career with a runner-up finish at the Illinois state meet. Thommes turned in a career-best at the meet clearing five feet, five inches in the long jump.

"Caille has tremendous upside and showed improvement each season," Jackson said. "She jumps her best at big meets and will deliver much needed consistency at the high jump event."

The new members will compete when the team begins indoor competition in January.

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looked at to contribute right away at the conference level. We are fortunate to add her talents and motivation to the team."

Ranson was a rising star in the state of Illinois during both the indoor and outdoor track seasons. She will have an opportunity to contribute right

"Jasmine has competed at a high level for many years, and we look to continue to develop her talents," Jackson said. "We are really excited about having her in our program."

Goins joins the Cougars from Metamora High School where she was a consistent state qualifier

COUGAR TRACKING



SPENCER PATTON



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Innings pitched:	15.2
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